

P R O P O S A L S

FOR PRINTING A

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

OF A

COLLECTION OF PASTES AND IMPRESSIONS

OF

ANCIENT and MODERN GEMS:

FORMED AND SELLING

By JAMES TASSIE.

IN number, variety of subjects, and stile of engraving, this Collection exceeds any hitherto formed in Italy, France, or Germany: a proper arrangement, and accurate descriptive Catalogue of the same, will, it is therefore presumed, be found both acceptable and useful to Virtuosi and Artists, who study and collect these monuments and efforts of art for instruction, ornament, or amusement.

It amounts to more than 15,000 numbers:—*Christian Debn's*, *Mademoiselle Felois'*, and *Lippert's* similar collections, at Rome, Paris, and Dresden, did not exceed 3,000.

It contains the impressions of almost every great collection of originals, and is formed upon the most general and comprehensive plan, with due attention to the best works of antiquity, and with no less regard to those which barbarous, or less enlightened ages, and modern artists have produced; in which point of view it is evidently, more than any other, calculated to shew the origin, progress, highest perfection, decline, revival, and present state of the art; to satisfy the taste and various pursuits of collectors; and to assist the judgment of those who are desirous of buying originals.

Its Description has been drawn up with great care, according to its scientific arrangement; and as far as books, tradition, manuscripts, memoirs, and a desire of being useful, could enable the Author. It

1. Ascertains the colour and nature of the original Gems.
2. Their former or present possessors.
3. Their former descriptions and prints.
4. Together with their respective subjects and inscriptions, which sometimes are found on them; and now and then, only when there was any particular occasion for it, the Author has given his particular opinion upon both, and the respective merit of their execution.
5. It is drawn up in French and English, the two idioms the most generally understood in those countries, where ancient and modern art and learning is respected, and where the owner has a modest claim to look out for encouragement.

To assist the reader and collector, Indexes have been added, which it is hoped will be found acceptable and useful, viz.

6. An alphabetical Index of the various cabinets, in which the respective numbers of the Gems are preserved; so that whole sets of any cabinet can be formed by this means.
7. An alphabetical Index of all the ancient and modern masters; by which means any set of their works may be selected.
8. An alphabetical Index of the various inscriptions which are found on them, and will be interesting to the learned.
9. A similar Index of the subjects, and remarks which have been suggested by them. And,
10. Lastly, Fifty-eight etched Plates have been added, of several hundreds of curious Gems, most of which have not hitherto been published.

The work will contain about 100 sheets letter-press: It is now printing with this type, and on this paper. A few copies will be taken off on larger and finer paper. The price on this paper, in boards, will not be above One Guinea and a Half: a proportionable price will be charged for the copies on large paper.

The manuscript and plates being finished, Specimens may be seen at the Proprietor's. The work will be delivered in the course of next summer, or as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the Virtuosi, Encouragers and Professors of the arts, who have hitherto liberally encouraged the Proprietor's well meant pursuits and perseverance, are humbly requested to honour this undertaking with their Subscription, which will be taken in at his House, N^o. 20, Leicester Fields; and at Mr. MURRAY's, N^o. 32, Fleet Street.—No payment expected till the delivery of the work.

JAMES TASSIE,
N^o. 20 LEICESTER FIELDS.

LONDON,
DECEMBER 22, 1788.

EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHICS.

1] GREEN JASPER.

An inscription of eight hieroglyphical figures in intaglio, among which are the falcon, the globe, and several *linear figures*. It seems to be executed with the graver, and may be supposed anterior to the invention of the wheel. The form of the stone implies that it was used as a seal; a very ancient custom in Egypt. Genes. xli. v. 42.

2] **ANTIQUE PASTE**, belonging to *Charles Townley, Esq. of London.*

Three hieroglyphical figures, among which is the beetle, symbol of the sun.

3] **BURNT CORNELIAN.** *Scarab. Prussian Cabinet. Winkelman's Catalogue of Stofsch's Gems, p. 4. n°. 7. Schweickart, Plate n°. 7. Plate II.*

An hieroglyphic inscription, deeply executed with the graver, in the same manner as the inscriptions upon the obelisks, and other Egyptian monuments of the most remote antiquity. The figures of the preceding number are in a circle, as a symbol, or making a separate sentence; near a sphynx is a human figure turned upon the belly, and three *linear figures*, among which is the Gamma, or the number ten. See n°. 177.

4] **BURNT CORNELIAN.** *Scarab. Prus. Cab. Winck. Cat. p. 5. n°. 9. Schweick. Pl. Plate II.*

An inscription, executed with the graver in the same style, containing, besides several *linear figures*, an oval or symbol, with the figure of an Egyptian Phallus. Plate II.

5] **TURQUOISE.** *Scarab. Brit. Mus.* Another hieroglyphical inscription with the graver, and an oval symbol.

6] **BURNT JASPER.** *Scarab. Brit. Mus.* Ditto, with an oval symbol in the middle.

7] **TURQUOISE.** *Scarab. Brit. Mus.* Ditto.

8] **GREEN JASPER.** *Scarab. Brit. Mus.* Ditto, with four basilisks or ceraastes in front, and erect upon their tails.

9] **BURNT JASPER.** *Scarab. Brit. Mus.* Another cut deep with the graver; a very ancient and coarse work.

10] **BURNT**

JASPE VERD.

INSCRIPTION de huit figures hieroglyphiques en creux, parmi lesquelles le faucon, le globe, & plusieurs *figures lineaires*. Elle semble être gravée à trait, & on pourrait la supposer antérieure à l'invention du touret. La forme de la pierre prouve qu'elle servait de cachet, dont l'usage est fort ancien en Egypte. Genes. xli. v. 42.

PATE ANT. de Mr. Charl. Townley, à Londres.

Trois figures hieroglyphiques, parmi lesquelles le scarabée, symbole du soleil.

CORNALINE BRULÉ. *Scarabée. au Cab. de Prusse. Catalogue de Winkelman des Pierres gravées de Stofsch, p. 4. n°. 7. Schweickart, Planche n°. 7. Planche II.*

Inscription hieroglyphique profondément gravée à trait dans la manière des inscriptions sur les obélisques, & autres monumens Egyptiens de la plus haute antiquité. Les figures du nombre précédent s'y trouvent dans un cercle, comme faisant symbole ou sentence à part, près d'un sphinx, une figure humaine renversée sur le ventre, & trois *figures lineaires*, parmi lesquelles le Gamma, ou le nombre dix. Voyez n°. 177.

CORNALINE BRULÉE. *Scarab. au Cab. de Prusse. Winck. Cat. p. 5. n°. 9. Schweick. Pl. Planche II.*

Inscription à trait d'un style pareil, contenant, outre plusieurs *figures lineaires*, un ovale ou symbole, avec la figure du phallus Egyptien. Planche II.

TURQUOIS. *Scarab. au Cab. Brit.* Autre inscription hieroglyphique à trait, avec un symbole ovale.

JASPE BRULÉ. *Scarab. au Cab. Brit.* Ditto, avec un symbole ovale au milieu.

TURQUOIS. *Scarab. au Cab. Brit.* Ditto.

JASPE VERD. *Scarab. au Cab. Brit.* Ditto, avec quatre basilisques ou ceraastes en face, se dressant sur leurs queues.

JASPE BRULÉ. *Scarab. au Cab. Brit.* Autre profondément gravée à trait, d'un ouvrage fort rude & ancien.

JASPE